



World Humanitarian Day

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Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs Bhim Bahadur Rawal inaugurating the commemoration event of World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2009 at Nepal Academy Hall, Kamaladi by lighting the sacred lamp. Photo: OCHA

Many people – working for the Red Cross, United Nations and NGOs – have dedicated their lives to providing this life-saving assistance according to the principles of neutrality, independence, humanity and impartiality. However, they often face threats and violence in carrying out their work.

Established by the General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations in December 2008, 19 August 2009 is the first World Humanitarian Day. The aim of the Day is to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities

Kathmandu, 19 Aug: In Nepal today, millions of people are still in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. More than three million people do not have enough food to eat; thousands need shelter and medicine following floods, landslides or conflict; while some 28,000 children under five die each year from easily-preventable illnesses.

worldwide and of the need for humanitarian workers to be able to operate without interference. The Day also aims to honour humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or been injured in the course of their work.

Radio Chautari on Air



Listen: <http://unic.un.org/kathmandu>

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UN News



UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq Late Sergio Vieira de Mello. (File Photo: UN).

Why 19 August? –

Six years ago, on 19 August 2003, the United Nations office in Iraq was bombed and 22 people lost their lives. Among them was Sergio Vieira de Mello, at that time the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq. While there have been many other fatal incidents involving humanitarian personnel the General Assembly decided to use the

anniversary of this incident as World Humanitarian Day.

The Day focused on three areas:

- To draw attention to humanitarian needs in Nepal
- To acknowledge the ongoing work of humanitarian staff
- To honour those who have lost their lives in humanitarian service

The Day was marked around the world with events, concerts and commemorations. To learn more about this work in Nepal, the humanitarian community working in Nepal, including the UN System in Nepal, organized an event at the 'Kamaladi' Nepal Academy Hall, Kathmandu, open to the public.

On the occasion chaired by Nepal's Home Minister Bhim Bahadur Rawal, a video message of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was screened along with "In Memoriam" was screened in personal tribute to Sergio Viera de Mello. A minute of silence was observed by some 500 participants consisting from humanitarian national and international agencies, UN staff members and Nepali government officials. This was followed by a musical performance consisting of native Nepali instrument called "Sarangi". UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper spoke on the humanitarian challenges in Nepal. Various speakers paid glorious tributes to their colleagues who laid their lives while serving the humanitarian cause.

The event also featured a photo exhibit describing the key humanitarian needs in Nepal and short films were screened highlighting humanitarian action globally and in Nepal.



A video message of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was screened.

Op-eds of John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary General looking after Humanitarian affairs and Mr. Robert Piper were placed by



UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Robert Piper speaking about humanitarian challenges in Nepal. Photo: OCHA



Posters exhibition in the World Humanitarian Day 2009.
Photo: UNIC



Nepalese peacekeepers assist orphans in Haiti

Nepalese peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Photo: UN Mission

KATHMANDU, 2 September: Nepalese peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) provided food, clothing and medical care to more than one hundred orphans living in the village of Kenskoff during a humanitarian outreach activity on 28 August 2009. This humanitarian action was part of the regular activities undertaken by MINUSTAH's 'blue helmets' to provide assistance to the Caribbean country's impoverished local population.

The Nepalese peacekeepers' humanitarian activities began with the provision of medical care to 112 orphans from four different children's centers in Kenskoff, a mountain town 45 minutes outside of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

The Nepalese contingent's medical team -- consisting of a doctor, three nurses and a paramedic -- examined each child individually. "For each child we do a health assessment to assess nutritional status, and check their measurements - weight, height, etc," says Dr. Ritesh Sinha. The result, according to the military doctor, was that "nearly 70% of children examined show severe signs of malnutrition." Among other conditions identified by the medical team were various skin problems. Depending on their diagnosis, the Nepalese medical team administered care ranging from re-hydration solutions, antibiotics, de-worming medicine to antibacterial ointments.

But health problems are only part of the needs identified for these children. The centers also face an insufficient number of classrooms, food shortages, poor hygienic facilities and overall maintenance problems.

Imbued with these realities, the peacekeepers also provided children with food, consisting of soy-based high energy biscuits and chocolate. The orphans were also treated to new clothes. These donations come exclusively from the Nepalese contingent.

Visibly touched by this act of goodwill to members of his community, Kenskoff mayor Jean François Paul told the peacekeepers, "We do not consider you as strangers but as friends." The Mayor thanked the Nepalese peacekeepers and said that "What you have done is an action normally vested in the municipality of Kenskoff. But we unfortunately do not always have the means."

"We are here to lend our support to the Haitian people. And this is also shown through food aid and medical, held to mark the responsible actions of the Nepalese contingent, said Major Thapa Ramkaji. It also recognizes that this approach is not sufficient to meet important needs, "but we try to make our contribution."

* * * *



Women displaced by Koshi flood provided vocational training on electrical trade

Kathmandu, 31 Aug: With the framework of cooperation between WFP and UN-HABITAT food for training for people displaced by Koshi Flood is under implementation. The areas of training are masonry, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and embroidery. It is interesting to note that four out of 21 trainees in electrical trade are women and one out of two trainers is a young woman. The age of the trainees varies between 18 to 28 years and all of them see potential for gainful employment after the training. According to the trainers they are equally good if not better than their male counterparts.



Ms. Rambha Kumari Pathak taking vocational training. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Ms Rambha Kumari Pathak is a trainee in the ongoing vocational training (electrical). She is from Haripur -3, Pathak Tole. She has two daughter aged 5 and 6 and a son aged 8. Rambha is a widow and she is only 26. Her Husband died of cancer 5 years ago.

To a question how she was motivated to attend training on electrical trade. She said her brother is an electrical overseer working in New Delhi India inspired her for the electrical training. She is quite happy to get an opportunity for the training. After completing the training, she expects that she can use her knowledge for herself and make a living by helping others.



Ms. Punam Singh.
Photo: UN-HABITAT

Ms Punam Singh is eighteen and lives with her parents and younger siblings in Haripur -1, Haripur chowk. She is studying in class 11 in Sunsari Multiple College, Sunsari. The means of living of the family is agriculture. During Koshi flood their family were evacuated for 3 months in the Camp K, Saptari. Her house was not

damaged by the flood. They have approximately 3 Bighas of land in Haripur VDC; ward no 1 which was not damaged by the flood. They are farming Paddy, Wheat and some vegetables.

She says there are no trained electricians in her community, so she recognises a need and scope to work. Therefore she has opted to undergo for the training. In addition to the electrical training, Punam attends college. She is pretty sure that the training will provide her opportunity for gainful employment

Ms Puja Pathak is also eighteen and lives with her parents, a brother older than her and two sisters one younger and one older (married) than her in Haripur -3, Pathak Tole. She is studying in class 11. Her father is teacher in a government school.



Ms. Puja Pathak
Photo: UN-HABITAT

During flood their family were evacuated for 3 months in the Highway Camp, Bhandabari, Haripur. They have land but she has no idea about the size of land. Their land was not damaged by the flood. They are farming

Paddy and Wheat which just meets the family consumption requirements.

She attends college in morning and attend the training thereafter. She is considered to be one of the best trainees. To a question how she was motivated to attend training on electrical trade; she says she is confident that she can do some earning after she completes her training and can support herself and her family.



Ms. Indu Devi Pathak.
Photo: UN-HABITAT

The fourth trainee is **Ms. Indu Devi Pathak** 28 the senior most trainee among ladies. She has three daughters aged 10, 8 and 4 and two sons aged 6 and 2 and lives together with her mother in law in Haripur -3, Pathak Tole. Her husband is working in Delhi as a labour in a company. All of her

children are attending school in a school in Haripur itself. She owns 1 bigga of land (1.625 acres). She says she has to share 50% of the yield to the worker. She grows Wheat, Paddy and Mung lentil.

She selected the electrical training, as the local people informed her that an electrician will earn lots of money and so she was inspired to learn electrical training. Now she can do basic electrical works in her own home and confident that she can make a living by utilizing the knowledge she gained during the training. She says that her family members also are quite happy that she is undergoing a training on electrical trade.



UN HABITAT launches projects in Nepal for conservation and management of water sources



Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief Water and Sanitation section II inaugurating the launching of management of water source programme in Tokha. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Kathmandu, 31 Aug: Scarcity of drinking water is not new for denizens of Kathmandu Valley. Water supplied by Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) is far behind the demand of the people. Therefore, people use water from local sources such as stone spouts, dug-wells and springs to fulfill their demand. However, these sources are also drying gradually with the depletion in ground aquifer. Ground aquifer is the major source for these local water sources, and the main causing of declining ground water level is its over extraction.

Considering it, UN HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal launched two projects in the valley in August 2009 to manage drinking water at local level and recharge ground water. The launching programme of these projects were inaugurated by Andre Dzikus, Chief of Water and Sanitation Section II, Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, UN HABITAT, Nairobi.

UN HABITAT made an understanding with LUMANTI Support Group for Shelter to provide its technical as well as financial support to establish isolated water supply system and pro-poor distribution mechanism to provide safe and affordable drinking water to the poor and marginalized inhabitants of selected communities.

This project was initiated officially by organizing a launching programme on 15 August, 2009 in Tokha. The project as its first component will tap water from streams located in Shivapuri National Park, which will be then treated and

distributed in Saraswoti and Chandeshwori VDC of Tokha through the distribution network. As the surface water available is not sufficient to meet the demand, the project will also extract water from ground aquifer.

In addition to water supply facilities, it will develop a comprehensive sanitation master plan of Tokha through consultations and consensus of all stakeholders to guide the future sanitation improvement plan in integrated manner.

District Development Committee-Kathmandu, Saraswoti and Chandeshwori VDC has also made their solidarity by allocating budget for the establishment of water supply system in Tokha, and the project will get other necessary technical supports from Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL).

The project has also targeted to access safe drinking water to about 1200 households of low income communities in Koteswor. A distribution centre will be established, which will deliver the filtered drinking water in 20 litre polythene container in these communities.

A water bottling system had been established in Chyasal, Lalitpur with technical and financial support of UN HABITAT, which is currently serving treated water to 250 households. This new project will install additional treatment plant to the existing water bottling system to cater safe drinking water to additional 100 households in the area.

Similarly, UN HABITAT and Bottlers Nepal Limited in collaboration with Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City, Bentleys University, National Trust for Nature Conservation and in technical support of Centre for Integrated Urban Development launched another project on 16 August, 2009 in Lalitpur to demonstrate community rainwater recharge technique through restoration of traditional pond, installation of rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structure to facilitate increase in water discharge of selected traditional stone spouts.

It has been expected to conserve 40,000 kilo liters of rain water, besides benefiting the local community and opinion leaders to build awareness on water conservation and protection of traditional water bodies.



Media Advocacy: Interaction on Gender Based Violence and Roles of Media Supported by UNFPA



Media persons participating in the interaction programme on Gender Based Violence supported by UNFPA. Photo: UNFPA

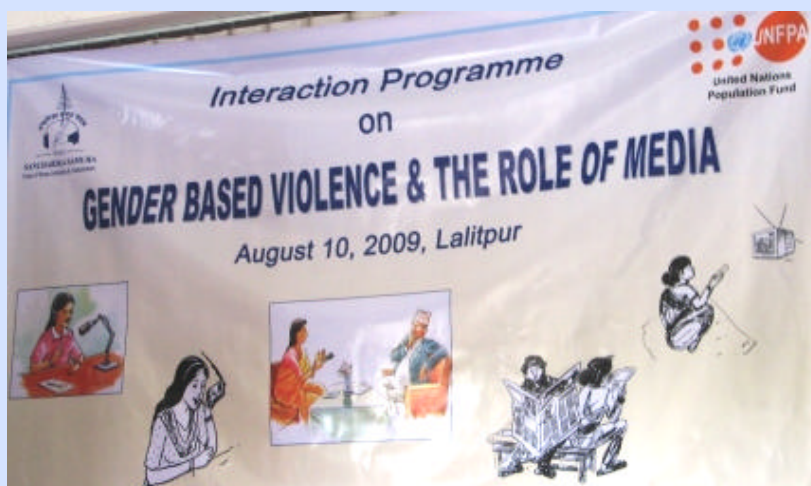
Kathmandu, 10 Aug: In Kathmandu UNFPA supported a national NGO, Sancharika Samuha, to hold an interaction session with journalists to discuss gender based violence (GBV) and the media's responsibility to cover GBV cases. This is part of a media campaign launched on July 10 by Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication to increase media coverage on GBV and promote ethical reporting.

UNFPA Representative, Ian McFarlane, delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of partnerships with media to raise awareness on GBV and effectively bring the issue to the forefront. A GBV assessment conducted in Dang and Surkhet was presented, which highlighted the extent and gravity of violence that women experience at home and in their communities. According to the report, over 80% of

women surveyed experienced domestic violence from their husband and 74% have been forced to participate in non-consensual sexual acts in the past 2 years.

Over 70 journalists including editors, desk editors, programme producers, news chiefs and reporters of major media houses attended the session, and discussed their roles extensively

while also expressing commitment for more and better coverage of the issue. The event was also presided over by the Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ms. Brinda Hada, and the Press Advisor to the President of Nepal, Mr. Rajendra Dahal, was among other presenters and panelists.





Celebrating International Youth Day in Nepal

SUSTAINABILITY: Our Challenge. Our Future.



Youth Rally in Kathmandu.
Photo: UNFPA



Youth performing in Kapilvastu.
Photo: UNFPA

Kathmandu, 12 Aug: 'It is often said that young people are our future. They are our present, too. It is today, and not tomorrow, that we must invest in young people and include them in solving the great challenges of our times', said Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director on the occasion of International Youth Day, 12 August 2009.

UNFPA Nepal celebrated the International Youth Day with local partner organizations in Kathmandu and in the districts. In the capital Today's Youth Asia (TYA) organized an Elocution Contest in which forty one participants competed in two age groups- 13-16 junior category and 17-24 senior category- talking about "Our Responsibility towards Sustainable

Development" through the lenses of one of the eight Millennium Development Goals. The Association of Youth Organizations of Nepal (AYON) organized a youth rally, an interaction program on the theme of the day, a blood donation drive and a music concert to close the day.

In Dadeldhura, Dang, Kapilvastu, Rautahat, and Mahottari districts District Development Committees, various youth organizations, UNFPA and the local communities in celebrated the International Youth Day by organizing rallies, interactions, street dramas, radio programmes, speech competitions as well as song and essay contests.

UN Events Calendar (September)

08 Sept: International Literacy Day

Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all – children, youth and adults - is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever moving target. A combination of ambitious goals, insufficient and parallel efforts, inadequate resources and strategies, and continued underestimation of the magnitude and complexity of the task accounts for this unmet goal.

Website: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/literacy>

14 Sept: International Day For The Preservation Of The Ozone Layer

On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed. States are invited to devote the Day each year to promote, at the national level, activities in accordance with the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

15 Sept: International Day Of Democracy

Stressing the continuing need to promote democratization, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the General Assembly agreed on 08 November 2007 to observe 15 September each year as the International Day of Democracy. In adopting by consensus a resolution on the issue, the 192-member body reaffirmed that "while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region."

21 Sept: International Day Of Peace

The International Day of Peace was first established in 1981 by a resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session every September. In 2001 the resolution 55/282 was strengthened to fix the date annually on 21 September and for it to be a day of nonviolence and cease-fire. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Member States of the General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/peaceflag/whatis.html>



Consultation Workshop held on Assessment of Community Learning Centres in Nepal



Front Left: Mr Arjun Bhandari, Joint Secretary/MOE, Ms H. Alidou, UNESCO Institute of Life Long Learning (UIL), Germany, Dr Ram Swarup Sinha, Secretary of Ministry of Education, Dr Colin Kaiser, Head and UNESCO Representative to Nepal, Mr Jibachh Mishra, Director of Non-formal Education Center/MOE, Mr A Hakeem, APPEAL/UNESCO BKK. Photo: UNESCO

Hamburg, Germany facilitated the workshop and shared their experiences of various countries.

The workshop discussed the modality and scope of CLC assessment with respect to i) policy linkage and networking, ii) programme/activity, iii) management and iv) financial resources, and recommended further action plan for the assessment of the CLCs which will be executed jointly by NFEC and UNESCO with the technical support of international

Kathmandu, 12 Aug: A half day brainstorming session among experts was organized to discuss on the scope and modality of comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of CLCs at the Non Formal Education Center, Sanothimi on 3 August 2009. As suggested, a visit was undertaken to the Bungamati CLC and the Sikharapur CLC to observe the CLC programmes as a preparation of the consultation workshop on 12 August 2009.

Two days Consultation Workshop on the "Assessment of Community Learning Centres in Nepal" was jointly organized with the Non-formal Education Centre, Ministry of Education under the CapEFA project from 13-14 August 2009 at Hotel Yak & Yeti, Kathmandu.

The main objective of the workshop was to hold informed discussion for the comprehensive assessment of the present status of the Community Learning Centres (CLCs) after its 10 years of implementation and recommend appropriate policies, strategies and activities for the improvement of CLC. Government officials, representatives of I/NGOs, UN agencies and various development partners participated in the workshop. Experts from APEAL/UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL)

consultant for this project, UIL, APPEAL/UNESCO Bangkok and the concerned stakeholders at the country level. Based on the recommendation, a national advisory team will be formed to provide guidance to the research team in order to carry out the study.



Participants of the programme. Photo: UNESCO



Building Capacity on Library Management to Community Learning Centers



Participants from the field visit a children library in Jawalakhel.

Photo: UNESCO

Kathmandu, 21 Aug: UNESCO Kathmandu Office organized a five days "Capacity Building on Library Management to CLCs for Continuous Learning" with the technical support of READ Nepal in Kathmandu from 17-21 August 2009. The main objective of the training was to impart basic knowledge about systematic and scientific way of managing and running a CLC resource centre to the community people.

Social mobilizers from 23 Community Learning Centers (CLCs) of 7 districts viz; Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Dadeldhura, Dang, Mahottari, and Saptari participated in the programme. The training was focused on the theoretical and the practical knowledge of basic and general idea of collection building, accessioning, classification, cataloguing, circulation and other services to be provided by a community library and other aspects of library science. The training prepared an action plan to organize reading competitions and other

activities to promote and create reading environments in the communities.

At the end of the programme, the CLCs were provided with catalogue cards and card cabinet for cataloguing; and library materials for technical processing of documents in the respective CLC Libraries. The participating CLCs were supported with the reading materials and furniture in the first phase of the joint UNESCO-UNFPA project in 2008.

Director of Non-Formal Education Centre, Country Director of READ Nepal and representatives from UNESCO Office in Kathmandu graced the opening and closing ceremonies. Participants were awarded with the certificates during the closing ceremony.



UN Resource

UN Nepal

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UNIC Kathmandu in Brief

UNIC Kathmandu is located in the UN House where most of the UN agencies in Nepal are also located. UNIC has a same entrance for visitors to facilitate their access into the Centre - be it to consult the reference library; to attend press conferences or for seeking information on UN related issues. UNIC undertakes extensive press activities, such as organizing press conferences for visiting UN officials, and for other UN agencies located in Nepal. It helps to prepare joint statements for the UN Country Team on various important issues and disseminates statements of the UN Secretary-General and other press releases/news/articles/reports coming from UN Headquarters. It is fully accessible to media persons and visitors during office hours.

In its constant endeavor to upgrade its service delivery with new and innovative approach through recent Information Technology, UNIC Kathmandu has implemented the electronics library system with internet facility to visitors as well as e-Catalogue for fast and efficient tracking of available contents in reference library. This catalogue is available online for home users as well as for other individuals.